(b) and (c) As a step towards providing a safety net for the rationalized employees of CPSEs, a Plan Scheme for Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment (CRR) for the separated employees of CPSEs under VRS/VSS is being implemented. The scheme aims at rehabilitation of the rationalized employees through short duration training programmes. The strategy is to equip them with skills, which would enable them to be deployed mainly in self-employment activities.

(d) In all, 60267 VRS/VSS optees have benefited under the CRR scheme during the period 2001-02 to 2004-05.

Revival of Hindustan Photo Films

2210. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting was convened at New Delhi on 30th August 2005 and 18th October, 2005 to discuss about the future of the ailing Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ooty;

(b) if so, the details of persons who were invited for the said meeting to participate;

(c) the reasons for not inviting MPs of Tamil Nadu who are very much concerned about this industry for such a meeting; and

(d) what were the details of the deliberations of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) No meeting was held on 30th August, 2005. However, it was decided to consult those MPs/Union Ministers/State Ministers from whom the Department had received references in the current year, expressing their concerned about HPF. Accordingly, the following Ministers/MPs were invited to attend a meeting on 18.10.2005:

(i) Ms. Jayalalitha, Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu

(ii) Shri M. Karunanidhi, President, DMK

(iii) Shri T.R. Baalu, Minister for Transport Highways & Shipping

(iv) Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Communication, Information and Technology

(v) Shri R. Prabhu, Member of Parliament

(vi) Shri P. Mohan, Member of Parliament.

(d) After taking into account the views expressed by the participants, it was decided in the meeting that the consultant should be asked to examine alternative plans submitted by the company for revival of HPF.

Development of rural business hubs in Orissa

2211. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop rural hubs, the Chinese way to integrate rural areas into modern economic hubs;

(b) whether Government have selected some States for the purpose and a task force has been set up by his Ministry for conceptualizing rural business hubs in specific areas for economic development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, with special reference to Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Prime Minister in his inaugural address to the Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in charge of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on 'Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj' held on 29-30 June, 2004 emphasized the importance of economic development through PRIs in rural areas and to evolve holistic models of rural development based on local resources and skills of local population utilizing agriculture and non farm sectors as engines of growth for providing additional incomes, livelihoods and create conditions for social equity and rural prosperity, drawing on China's experience of Town and Village Enterprises that add value to agricultural produce in rural areas. Thereafter a National-level Presentation on "Economic Empowerment through Panchayats" was held on the 5th November, 2004 in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in which more than 1000 elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions